

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Covenant Christian High School's Blake Leyden, City Soccer Player of the Year, Signs with Butler

By John Byers

On the morning of February 9<sup>th</sup>, Blake Leyden, the 2008 soccer City Player of the Year for Indianapolis, will sign to play soccer at Butler University.

Blake Leyden enjoyed a four-year soccer standout career at Covenant. Leyden was a Varsity soccer letter winner all four of his years at Covenant. Lining up at his preferred position of center midfielder, the senior poured in 27 goals and seven assists to earn the City Player of the Year title. Leyden was also successful on his club team, Indy Burn, as their all-time leading scorer, propelling them to seven straight state cup championships.

For Leyden, Butler was an obvious choice. The university has a strong soccer program that was ranked in the top 25 Division I soccer programs in 2008. Leyden likes the coaching staff and that Butler is close to home so his family can watch him play. Leyden will room with his friend Andrew Smith, another Covenant Christian student who has already signed to play basketball for the Bulldogs next year.

While Leyden excels on the field, maybe his greatest attributes are displayed off of it. John Creighton, Leyden's soccer coach at Covenant, said, "Blake is a young man who strives for integrity. He is a natural leader who wants to lead people by working with them." Creighton also pointed out that Leyden has consistently shown humility throughout his career, as well as always encouraging and supporting the players around him.

Leyden said that he is looking forward to playing "a high level of college soccer", as well as making an impact as a freshman next year. With a combination of excellence on the field and maturity off it, Leyden, as Creighton says, "can do anything he puts his mind to. He is someone who works hard at what he does."

A ceremony will be held at Covenant starting at 8 A.M. to honor Leyden and his accomplishments. The entire student body will be in attendance to watch Leyden officially sign the document that will send him to Butler. The ceremony will be followed by a reception open to staff, family, invited friends, and media.

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